

Geoduck Aquaculture Feasibility Pilot Project

Washington State Department of
Natural Resources

Geoduck Aquaculture Pilot Project

- 2003 Legislature asked DNR to develop proposal
- Should DNR lease state-owned aquatic lands (intertidal and/or sub-tidal) for geoduck aquaculture?
- Report back to 2005 Legislature

Pilot Project Steering Committee

- Washington State Department of Natural Resources
- Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife
- 18 Puget Sound Treaty Tribes

Elements of Pilot Project

- Contract with University of Washington School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences, Pacific Shellfish Institute, and Baywater, Inc.
 - Comprehensive literature review & synopsis of biology, life history, and ecology of geoduck
 - Report on research findings related to subtidal geoduck aquaculture
 - Assessment of geoduck genetics & requirements for stock management
 - Report on natural recruitment and survival
 - Design of Phase II in-the-ground study and protocols

Elements of Pilot Project

- Economic Analysis by Northern Economics, Inc.
 - Impact on wild fishery
 - Market elasticity—demand for wild vs. aquaculture product
 - Market demand—domestic & international

Elements of Pilot Project

- Steering Committee Issues
 - Legal issues—rights of tribes to 50% of harvestable surplus of geoducks
 - Enforcement—chain of custody to ensure legal harvest & health

Elements of Pilot Project

- Outreach

- Meetings with county Marine Resources Committees, shoreline planners, County Councils & County Commissions, watershed groups, industry groups
- e-Newsletter
- Web Site
- Display
- www.dnr.wa.gov/htdocs/aqr/shellfish/aqua/index.htm

Elements of Pilot Project

- Jump-start project
 - In-the-ground data collection
 - Partner with UW School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences graduate student
 - Partner with geoduck growers and harvesters
 - Small scale
 - Focus on question of when geoducks become sexually mature

Opportunity for Public Input

- Public Opinion Survey
 - qualitative, not quantitative
 - questionnaire available on web site
- Public Meetings
- Phone & e-Mail
- Newsletter contains contact information

Timeline

- Spring-Summer-Fall 2004
 - Meetings of Steering Committee & Outreach
- Summer 2004
 - Jump-start data collection by UW student
- October 2004
 - Final UW Report
 - Economics Study
- January 2005
 - Report to Legislature

Geoduck Seed



Geoduck Seed



Geoduck Seed in Tube



Geoduck Tubes



Geoduck Tubes Removed



Geoduck Aquaculture Harvest



Geoduck Aquaculture Harvest



Geoduck Aquaculture Harvest



Geoduck Aquaculture Harvest



Geoduck

